



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

July 11, 2011

Lynette Myhre
Bussel 484 Project Team Leader
St. Joe Ranger District
222 7th Street, Suite 1
St. Maries, Idaho 83861

Re: EPA Comments on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Bussel 484 Project (EPA Project #05-023-AFS)

Dear Ms. Myhre:

The EPA has reviewed the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the **Bussel 484 Project** on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest in Idaho in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

On July 7, 2008, the EPA issued comments on the Final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) for the Bussel 484 Project. The EPA did not identify any outstanding environmental concerns in that 2008 letter. On August 6, 2010, the ROD for the Bussel 484 Project was set aside by an Idaho District Court Judge and remanded to the Forest Service. At issue in the court case was the Forest Service's reliance on habitat-as-proxy for analysis of management indicator species, and the need to evaluate fire planning given the withdrawal of the 2008 Fire Management Plan for the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The SEIS provides valuable context and additional information related to fire and fuels, fisheries, sensitive plants, and wildlife. We appreciate the effort on the part of the Forest Service to satisfy the requirements of the court. As the new analysis did not result in any substantive changes to the proposed alternative, the EPA does not have any additional comment to offer.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this DSEIS. If you have questions or comments, please contact me at (206) 553-1601, or by email at reichgott.christine@epa.gov, or you may contact Teresa Kubo of my staff at (503) 326-2859, or by email at kubo.teresa@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine B. Reichgott".

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit